

Case 2836

***Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed conservation and designation of *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the generic name of the heleomyzid fly *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837 with *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 as its type species. There is lack of agreement on the availability of the name as published in Curtis (1837) and the genus is sometimes spelled *Aecothea* after Haliday (1838).

1. The generic name '*Oecothea* Hal.' was first mentioned in the Addenda to Curtis (1837, col. 280) after the 17th species (*caesia* M.) of the 1328th numbered genus *Suillia*. Curtis stated in his preface (p. v) that 'the generic and specific names without numbers are considered as synonyms'. It follows that the unnumbered name *Oecothea* was proposed as a synonym of (i.e. part of) *Suillia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830. In the Addenda the numbers and names of four British species were given below *Oecothea*: '23 *pallescens* M., 24b *subterranea* Desv., 25 *laeta* M. and 32 *silvatica* M.'. In the main text to Curtis preceding the Addenda (1837, col. 272) the specific name in *Helomyza* immediately following '17 *caesia* M.' was '18 *fenestralis* Fall.'. The relationship of the name *fenestralis* to *Oecothea* was not stated; the absence of the species numbered between 18 and 23 meant that the precise position at which *Oecothea* related to the main text was not indicated. It is not clear that the four species (*pallescens*, *subterranea*, *laeta* and *silvatica*) were originally included in *Oecothea*. We take the pragmatic approach that *Oecothea* Haliday was proposed without any clearly included species.

2. In 1838 Haliday (p. 187) gave the name *Aecothea* as a subgenus of *Helomyza*, accompanied by a short description; he wrote 'C.[urtis] App.[endix] 280', referring to the name printed as *Oecothea* in Curtis (1837, Appendix, col. 280). Thompson & Mathis (1980, p. 86) regarded *Aecothea* as a lapsus for *Oecothea*. We suggest that it was a deliberate transliteration from Greek. Haliday gave *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 as the only British species of the genus.

3. Both spellings have been frequently used in the literature. The name has been spelled *Oecothea* by Westwood (1840), Loew (1862), Aldrich & Darlington (1908), Bezzi (1911), Garrett (1921), Czerny (1924, 1927, 1928), Aldrich (1926, who added that it was 'originally spelled *Aecothea*'), Séguy (1934), Collart (1940), Collin (1943), Gorodkov (1959, 1969, 1984), Papp (1980), Martinek (1987) and Woźnica (1991). The name *Aecothea* has been used by Gill (1962, 1965, 1968), Cole (1969), Martinek (1977), Papp (1981), Gill & Peterson (1987) and Okadome (1991).

4. In Opinion 488 (1957) the Commission ruled that type species of genera were not to be taken as having been fixed in Curtis (1837). Thompson & Mathis (1980, p. 86) considered that the four specific names printed after *Oecothea* in the Addenda to Curtis (1837) were associated with that genus. They pointed out that the frequent use of *fenestralis* as type species of *Oecothea* was not valid since it was not an originally included (i.e. 1837) species, and they designated Curtis's second numbered species (*Leria subterranea* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830) as the type species of *Oecothea*. However, *L. subterranea* is a nomen dubium within *Heleomyza* Fallén, 1810, and consequently the name *Oecothea* was regarded as a junior synonym of *Heleomyza*. If *L. subterranea* is taken as the type species of *Oecothea* then the genus typified by *Helomyza fenestralis* (i.e. the *Oecothea* of authors) is left without a name, as noted by Thompson & Mathis.

5. Peterson & Gill (1982) accepted Thompson & Mathis's designation of *Leria subterranea* as the type species of *Oecothea*. They (p. 219) proposed a new name *Neoeothea* for *Oecothea* of authors, not Haliday in Curtis (1837) in the sense of Thompson & Mathis. Peterson & Gill explained clearly the sense in which they used the name *Neoeothea* and designated *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 as its type species. McAlpine (1985, p. 206) accepted that Peterson & Gill's intention was to propose *Neoeothea* as a replacement for *Oecothea* in the *fenestralis* sense and accordingly synonymized *Neoeothea* with *Aecothea* Haliday, 1838. The name *Neoeothea* was used by Pitkin (1989), but was not followed by Gill & Peterson (1987).

6. *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 has often been used as the type species of *Oecothea* (first by Westwood, 1840, p. 145), but without any clear indication that it referred to the name proposed by Haliday in Curtis (1837). The first explicit designation of *Helomyza fenestralis* as the type species of *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837 was made by Gorodkov (1984, p. 18), but he qualified this designation with the words 'will be proposed for designation under the plenary powers'. We consider that the most effective resolution of this confusion would be the acceptance of *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837 as an available name with *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén as the type species.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

(a) to rule that the name *Oecothea* is deemed to have been made available in Curtis (1837);

(b) to rule that the authorship of *Oecothea* is deemed to be Haliday in Curtis;

(c) to set aside all fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837 prior to the qualified designation by Gorodkov (1984) of *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 and to rule that designation as valid;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Gorodkov (1984) *Helomyza fenestralis* Fallén, 1820 as ruled in (1)(c) above;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *fenestralis* Fallén, 1820, as published in the binomen *Helomyza fenestralis* (specific name of the type species of *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837);

- (4) to place the following names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
- (a) *Aecothea* Haliday, 1838 (a junior objective synonym of *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837);
 - (b) *Neoeothea* Peterson & Gill, 1982 (a junior objective synonym of *Oecothea* Haliday in Curtis, 1837).

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